

# THE Museum Bulletin.

VOL. I.

LAKE VILLAGE, N. H., SEPTEMBER, 1886.

No. 5.

## Items of Interest.

A swallow will *devour* 6000 flies a day, naturalists say.

The Navajo Indians are said to be the only tribe of American Indians who do not scalp dead enemies.

Owen Wilcomb has found nearly half a bushel of nice arrow-heads, spears, pottery, broken implements, etc., at Weirs this season.

M. B. Gordon recently found a fine chisel on his farm near Weirs. Mr. Gordon has a very large and interesting collection, all found by himself.

The first stamp dealers and collectors in the United States arose in 1861; the first hand-book appeared in 1863; and the first philatelic paper in 1864.

The Indian farmers on Pyramid Lake, Nevada, thresh their wheat by hand and winnow it in baskets just as the Egyptians did three thousand years ago.

A mound was recently opened at Weirs, by C. P. Wilcomb and brother, and among other interesting implements found were spear-heads, a mortar, pottery, fish-darts and arrow-heads.

The gold dug from the mines in Tibet, writes a missionary, is so plentiful that it is used to cover the pinnacles of the pagodas, and is made into idols, chairs, couches and ornaments for the people.

An Indian stone celt, a hide-dresser, gambling stone, arrow-heads and spear-heads, all perfect, were found near head of the channel at Weirs last week by C. P. Wilcomb, while on a collecting trip.

An old desk was sold at an auction in a small town near Pittsburg, Pa. The purchaser while examining it accident-

ally came across a secret drawer which was found to contain a 1798 Half Eagle, 10 silver dollars dated 1795 to 1799, one 1797 dime battered, a Chain 1793 cent, two 1794's, five 1798's, one of the latter nearly uncirculated, two old newspapers dated 1799, and a silver spoon. It is supposed these articles were hid away in 1799, as the owner of the desk died suddenly during that year and it was never used afterwards.

There is an island on the coast of California, which is covered by three acres of eggs. A sea captain who recently visited it says the island is of rock with a surface of about three acres. It is covered with guano, in which sea fowls of all descriptions were found laying or incubating their eggs. The surface appeared to be almost entirely covered with eggs, principally those of sea-gulls, shaggs, and a small bird known as the salt-water duck. He says it was difficult to walk without treading on the eggs, and a ship could be easily loaded with them.

## Indian Relics Discovered.

The tomb of an Indian chief, with many valuable treasures about him, was opened on Monday night on the farm of George Stowe, two miles north of Binghamton. Men were working in a sand pit and came upon the tomb by the merest accident. This is believed to be one of the most interesting discoveries of the sort ever made there, as the implements found in the tomb date back to the time before the discovery of the continent by Columbus. Mr. Stowe carefully collected all, and will protect the tomb from visiting antiquarian vandals.

### California Redwood.

A quality of California redwood is its ready absorption of water when heated, which for a time makes it almost fire-proof. The quickness with which fires are extinguished in San Francisco has often been remarked, and the celerity with which blazing buildings are often transformed into charred remnants is greatly facilitated by the entire lack of the resinous element in the redwood lumber. Resin, familiarly known as "pitch," is not only inflammable, but is insoluble in water and will burn while being drenched with the element, with which it will not mix. At a recent fire in that city the advantage of redwood over other lumber in the construction of buildings became apparent. The moment water struck the side of the building or roof timbers it not only quenched the flames, but the wood absorbed water as a sponge would, and it became incombustible.—*Our Home.*

### The Mexican and the Yankee Plows.

The plow generally in use in Mexico is a crooked stick, with sometimes an iron point. American plows are beginning to be introduced to a considerable extent, but the Mexican peasant on coming into possession of one generally cuts off one handle, in order to make it conform, as far as can be, to his ancient implement. A bundle of brush constitutes the harrow. "Their hoes are heavy grub-hoes, and grass is cut by digging it up with such a hoe."—David A. Wells.

A gang of workmen laying the foundation for the Veterans' Headquarters at Weirs, N. H., recently unearthed an interesting stone implement, evidently an axe and mallet combined. Its shape is similar to the modern tomahawk, except the head, which is large, round and flat. It is much larger than ordinary stone axes.

### NOW READY.

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(12 NUMBERS.)

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The existence of an unknown town in Lower Egypt has been discovered by the decipherers of the papyri which have been brought to Vienna from El Fayum. The document is a papyrus a little over four feet long by one foot wide, containing a marriage contract in Greek, and is well preserved. The date is not given but Profs. Karabacek and Wessly believe it belongs to the early part of the sixth century. The bridegroom was named Theon, the bride Maria. She had a fortune of her own amounting to 100 gold pieces, and the future husband engages to find for her food and clothing, and everything suitable for "an ordinary legitimate wife." There are witnesses and a notarial certificate. All the parties are described as belonging to the town of Justianopolis. The editors declare that they can find no mention of this place among any lists of the towns, etc., of Lower Egypt.

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DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF COLLECTORS OF ALL CLASSES AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL.

Vol. 1.—No. 6.

MOORE'S OPERA HOUSE BLOCK, LAKE VILLAGE, N. H., OCTOBER, 1886.

C. P. WILCOMB, Pub.

## The California Roadrunner.

This is the name of a very singular bird belonging to the cuckoo family. It gets its name from its speed and endurance as a racer. This is remarkable. It is a quiet-colored bird, with a sense of humor. Its tail is longer than its body, and tilts up and down and bobs around constantly. The roadrunner expresses its mind with its tail.

But the most remarkable fact about the bird is its method of destroying the rattlesnake. It likes best the sandiest, hottest part of southern California, where the rattlesnake and cactus alike abound. The roadrunner hates the rattlesnake with a mortal hatred. How a bird can kill a snake you will learn from the description by Mr. John Coryell, in *The Scientific American*.

Finding the snake asleep, it at once seeks out the spiniest of the small cacti, the prickly pear, and, with infinite pains and quietness, carries the leaves, which it breaks off, and puts them in a circle around the slumbering snake. When it has made a sufficient wall about the object of all this care it rouses its victim with a sudden peck of its sharp beak, and then quickly retires to let the snake work out its own destruction, a thing it eventually does in a way that ought to gratify the roadrunner.

The first impulse and act of the assaulted snake is to coil for a dart; its next to move away. It quickly realizes that it is hemmed in in a circle, and finally makes a rash attempt to glide over the obstruction. The myriad of tiny needles prick it and drive it back. The angry snake, with small wisdom, attempts to retaliate by fastening its fangs into the offending cactus. The spines fill its mouth. Angrier still, it again and again assaults the prickly wall, until, quite beside itself with rage, it seems to lose its wits completely, and, writhing and twisting horribly, buries its envenomed fangs into its own body, dying finally from its self-inflicted wounds. After the catastrophe, the roadrunner indulges in a few gratified flirts of its long tail and goes off. The name of this feathered curiosity is the "paisano." It is described as "an alert, comical looking bird."—*Ex.*

## Historical and News Items.

There are 35,000 newspapers in the world.

Centipedes near Silver Springs mines in Arizona, are reported to be a foot long.

Serpentine derives its name from its mottled color, resembling the skin of a serpent.

Pierre Lallemont, the inventor of the bicycle, was born at Point a Mousson, France, 1843.

A gold nugget, worth \$575, was picked up on the main street of Auburn, Cal., after a heavy rain storm.

There were \$72,650 worth of the old designed 5-cent pieces coined in 1883. On this account, they are comparatively rare, but as yet do not command a premium.

Fine specimens of ore known as native silver have been taken from a mine recently discovered at Alexandria, N. H. There is said to be an abundant supply of the mineral.

The largest bicycle ever made in America, diameter 64 inches, has been on exhibition in Hartford, Conn. It was made to order for a rider standing six feet seven and a half inches high.

The immense prehistoric shell heaps at Damariscotta, Me., are being dug up and shipped to Boston, to be ground into dust and sold as poultry food. These deposits, which are described in Ernest Ingersoll's Census Report on American Oyster Industries, have long been an object of great interest to antiquarians.

A member of the Geological Survey says that Salt Lake will be of great value in the near future, not only on account of the common salt it will produce, but also for the sodium sulphate it contains. The latter is separated in a flocculent precipitate by the cold weather of midwinter, and annually thrown up on the shore in enormous quantities. There are many other lakes in the far West whence an inexhaustible supply of commercial alkalies may be obtained at small cost, Mono Lake, Cal., alone being estimated to hold over 78,000,000 tons of sodium carbonate.

The San Francisco Mint is the largest in the world, having a coinage capacity twice that of Philadelphia and thrice that of the English Mint.

The remarkable speed attained by bicyclists has become one of the modern wonders. Wood, the professional, wheeled a mile at Springfield, Mass., recently, in 2m. 31 3-5s., the fastest time on record. It was not many years ago when a horse which could trot a mile in such time as that would have been considered strikingly fast. Gradually the trotting record has been much lowered, but it has probably now reached the bottom peg. How near the record for the fastest mile ever trotted the bicycle will be able to attain is an interesting problem. Bicycling is comparatively a new science.

## INDIAN RELICS.

There were recently dug up on a farm near Midland by a farmer, who was struck by the peculiar shape of a large hill on his land, an almost endless quantity of the following curiosities:—A large quantity of Indian corn which had apparently been roasted, probably one or two hundred years ago, but retaining its perfect shape and form; a few dozen clay pipes of unusual size, some with bowls as large as your fist; iron tomahawks in quantities and various sizes; large quantities of glass beads; a great quantity of old copper and brass in chunks from an inch to six inches in size, and all shapes; a lot of old broken pots or dishes of ordinary coarse clay somewhat rougher than an ordinary flower pot, and evidently home made; fish scales by the quart. They also unearthed a pen made entirely of bone, and about the size of an ordinary pen; an old watch too much decayed for it to be possible to discern any marks on; a boxwood comb in a good state of preservation, with some of the teeth broken; a long bone skewer about twelve inches long and pointed at both ends, fluted for about four or five inches in the center. By the amount of ashes and debris just below the surface, it is supposed to have been a large village at one time; but possibly burned down during some wars with other tribes.—*Curiosity Shop.*



### Jewels in the Treasury.

An item started on the question of what to do with the vast treasures stored away in the treasury vaults gets into one paper, and then from this long paragraphs grow. The truth of the matter is that there are very few jewels stored in the vaults. How these jewels came there no one can tell. Among the valuables is an old sword, with bejeweled hilt and golden chain. No one can tell to whom it belonged, but it is a relic of the revolution, and was probably captured and given to the government, but locked up with the treasures instead of being sent to the museum. There are two or three small bottles filled with precious stones, but they are sealed up, and no one knows their value. They may be "stage jewelry," for all the keepers know. In the box where these trinkets are kept is a curious old bottle containing attar of roses. It is variously claimed to be worth from \$100 to \$1000. Often, when the box is struck and jarred or moved, the sweet odor of the attar of roses permeates the vaults and lingers about the cold corridors for days. These, together with a few golden trinkets, make up the jewels of the treasury.—*Ex.*

### The Pine-Pine's Nest.

One of the most curious and interesting studies in nature is afforded by a thoughtful examination of birds' nests in all their wide variety, especially if we are permitted to witness their construction by the marvelous "artists of the air." One of the wonders of our childhood was the "hangbird's" nest, swaying so gracefully suspended from the branch of a lofty elm, and another childhood wonder, which still clings to us, is why the night-hawk should choose to substitute for a nest a simple flat rock in an open field fully exposed to attack and to the scorching rays of the mid-day sun, while some birds use every possible endeavor to secrete and guard from attack their nests. The pine-pine builds a singular nest. It is a double nest in two compartments; the mother sits in the alcove; in the vestibule watches the father, an attentive sentinel to repulse invasion.—*Curiosity Shop.*

For odd shapes in coins, China and Japan have the lead; in those of the greatest weight, Sweden excels; the smallest are those of Nuremburg and Nepal. That which represents the greatest value, in a coin struck from dies, belongs to the United States. France exceeds in experimental pieces.

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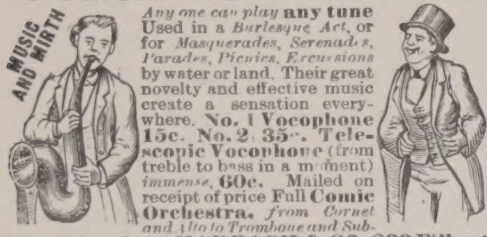
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DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF COLLECTORS OF ALL CLASSES AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL.

VOL. I—No 7.

WEIRS, N. H., NOVEMBER, 1886.

C. P. WILCOMB, Pub.

## Archæological Notes.

Many arrow and spear-heads of poor workmanship have been found in the vicinity of Spotswood, Middlesex Co., New Jersey.

A quantity of Roman coins of the periods between the reign of the Emperor Tiberius down to that of Aurilianus, have been discovered in the inland province Shansi, China.

Mr. Joseph Wigglesworth succeeded, last season, in finding many interesting specimens at Brier Hill, a well known Indian locality of Newcastle county, Delaware.—*Youth's Ledger*.

It appears from surveys made last summer, that the northern limits of the Moundbuilders lie beyond the Red River of the North. Along this river and Lake Winnipeg mounds were found identical with those of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys.

A mass of bones, supposed to be those of Indians, have been discovered on the banks of the Choptank river, in Dorchester county, Md. A remarkable feature of the discovery is the fact that in all the skulls found, the teeth are perfect and without a blemish. The bones are in some instances immense. While indications point to an Indian burying-ground, the great mass of bones unearthed give rise to the theory that they were Indian warriors who fell in battle and were buried in a heap.

In passing upon the condition of a coin, experts critically survey every portion of the piece, noting the slightest blemish, or wear from either cabinet friction, handling or actual circulation. It requires both study and experience to accurately grade the state of preservation from a scientific standpoint. This may in part account for dealers refusing to buy coins without seeing them.

R. G. D.—There were 1,453,000 5-cent pieces issued in 1883—in other words, \$72,650 worth. There were upward of 3,000,000 of the V nickels without the word "cents" issued before the die was changed. On this account the latter are not very likely to command a premium for many years, while the others may in time become quite rare.

## Historical and News Items.

Enamel is the hardest tissue of the body, and contains not more than two per cent. of animal matter.

The whale swims by striking the water up and down, instead of laterally, with a fin-like horizontal tail.

United States Mints are located in Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, New Orleans and Carson City.

Seines of horsehair were first made by the Gauls; those of linen by the Spaniards; and those of papyrus and rushes by the Egyptians.

The number of living specimens known in the animal kingdom is at least 300,000, of which more than nine-tenths are invertebrates.—*The Leader*.

A workman digging in a Paris yard came across an earthenware pot containing 472 pieces of silver coin, bearing the effigies of Francois I. and Charles V.

Melocipede is the new name of a musical bicycle so fashioned that the rider can kick out melodies, waltzes and reels as he travels along the road.—*New York Sun*.

A discovery of early coins (numbering 707) was recently made in France, in the Vicomte of Bearn, in connection with other relics, in two vases bearing marks of incineration. The coins ranged in date from 964 to 1138 A. D.

The half dollars and quarters of 1853 without the arrows at the sides of the date are considered rare, and as a consequence are sought after by collectors, who give \$3.75 for the former and \$2.50 for the latter, if in perfect condition.

It is not always the old coins that command a premium, as the following named coins of recent date are rare and hard to get. Trade dollars, Half and Quarters, of the years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, and Dimes of 1879, 1880, 1881, all command a high premium.

Of the wealth of the world \$730,000,000 are owned by four men, as follows: Mr. Mackay, \$275,000,000; Rothschild, \$200,000,000; Vanderbilt, \$175,000,000, and the Duke of Westminster, \$86,000,000. Their income per minute is \$25, \$20, \$18 and \$7 respectively.

## An Interesting Discovery.

One day while a gang of men were excavating for a cellar near the bridge at Weirs, they came across a singular-looking rough earthen pot, buried about two and one-half feet below the surface of the ground, containing nearly a quart of bright red mixture supposed to be Indian "war-paint," as it was found in the midst of a lot of Indian utensils and stone tools and near two ovens. The paint was in a good state of preservation but the pot crumbled as soon as exposed to the air. The paint was so soft that some of the men proceeded to ornament their pick and shovel handles with it.

Wampum was the name given to small beads made of shells, used by the North American Indians as money, and also wrought into belts and other ornaments. It was of two kinds, one being white and the other black, or of a dark purple color. It consisted of cylindrical pieces of the shells of testaceous (hard-shelled) fishes, a quarter of an inch long, and less than a pipe-stem in diameter, drilled lengthwise, so as to be strung upon a thread. The white beads, rated at half the value of the black or violet, passed each as the equivalent of a farthing in transactions between the natives and the early settlers.

While plowing in a field in Faulkner county, Arkansas, George Smith saw a ravine which had been washed by a recent overflow of the Black Fork, and in which reposed a large number of human skeletons, lying in natural positions, together with several earthen bowls, shells, arrows, leaden bullets, etc. The skulls were all incased in vessels made of clay, while one, with handsomely engraved ornaments, denoted that the skull belonged to an unusually important personage. The farm has been under cultivation over forty years, and relics denoting the existence there at one time of a prehistoric race, have been frequently found.—*Our Home*.

Double-grooved stone axes have been found on Tunnel Hill, near Phoenixville, Pa.



## NEW HAMPSHIRE MINERALS.

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This northern section of New Hampshire presents unusual attraction to the mineralogist, and specimens of certain minerals and crystalizations are here so easily obtained that it is not uncommon to see on mantels and in chimney nooks specimens of which would bring rare prices if a collector's eye should chance to fall upon them. A few citizens hereabouts have developed commendable interest in showing what New Hampshire has done in the way of producing crystalline forms. Among these are A. R. Burton and Editor Furber of the *Republic*, each of whom has a worthy collection. But perhaps the most noteworthy, because unexpected and also by reason of the circumstances attending their accumulation, are the collections of Messrs. J. M. Ladd and George H. Bunker, two blacksmiths, partners who have carried on a successful business for many years, but who have also found time to devote to the science of mineralogy. In an unassuming manner, and after their own fashion, they have read and talked upon the subject as they worked, occasionally taking a day for an excursion to the hills round about, until, as the years have gone by, they have become thoroughly familiar with the nomenclature of the science, have long since ceased to have any dread of hard words, and are, moreover, acquainted with localities from which specimens for the cabinet may be obtained. In their collections, which number several hundred each, may be seen most of the minerals to be found in this state, both in crystals and massive form—beryls, garnets, staurolite, magnificent crystals of iron pyrites, pellucid quartz crystals, hornblende in its varieties, tourmaline mica, mica nodules in granite, nearly all the mineral ores in their various chemical combinations, all forming a list too full for enumeration, but calculated to excite admiration for the amount of work and interest that they represent. It is amusing as well as instructive to hear these gentlemen recount their experiences in pursuit of the specimens that now enrich their shelves and adorn the brackets and mantles in their parlors. The time

which many other men devote to hunting, fishing and kindred sports, they have employed in long journeys among the mountains. In search of a perfect staurolite cross, Mr. Ladd dug, dived and wore his fingers' ends at Mink Pond in Lisbon until he was rewarded. In like manner he spent an entire day in the mountains, drilling a ledge for a crystal of tourmaline. Mr. Bunker, also, learning by chance that tourmaline crystals were to be found in a mountain in Ellsworth, went to Rumney with an outfit of stone tools, hired a team for Ellsworth, there hired a guide and reaching the mountains spent the day in hard work which resulted in a magnificent addition to his collection. These are but single instances mentioned to show the enterprise and persistency they have displayed through a long series of years. They have never had any idea of profiting financially by their work, and their specimens are not for sale, although they are ready any time to answer propositions for exchange. Their collections attract the attention of tourists, and not infrequently they have been the recipients of favors from other states, noticeably of geodes from the west and gems from the Carolinas. They have sought neither wealth or notoriety, but have contentedly hammered their iron and pursued their studies until many a young man who has had the advantage of the schools might feel taken aback at his ignorance after a conversation with these unassuming New Hampshire blacksmiths.—*Union*.

No man in the city takes a greater interest in Indian relics or has a finer collection than William H. Heath. He commenced making a collection a few years ago, but last summer and fall he added over 500 specimens, most of them obtained from the eddy in Amoskeag and in the vicinity of Rock Rimmon. One day while spading the ground at the eddy he accidentally struck the locality where the Indians manufactured their spear and arrow heads and other stone utensils. The ground was full of flint chips which he turned up in large quantities, and among the chips and dirt he found a large variety of spear and arrow-heads, many of them in perfect condition. Besides the heads, gouges in variety, an ax, a hatchet, a charm, and portions of a stone dish and knife were found. At Rock Rimmon he discovered a like place where the stone utensils were made, though the quantity of chips was not so large, but the relics were fully as perfect. One day while hunting near the west end of McGregor bridge he found a skin dresser in almost perfect condition. When the season opens Mr. Heath intends to resume the search, fully believing that he will meet with as great a success as last year.—*Manchester Union*.



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The Tarantula weaves no web but captures its prey by springing upon, grasping and biting it to death. It is no doubt venomous. Little is definitely known of its habits. The Tarantula is not socially inclined. Numerous as they are in certain portions of California, Colorado, Arizona and Mexico, two full-grown Tarantulas in company would be a rare sight. A characteristic, so to speak, of this creature, is, that the male, which is twice the size of the female, is belligerent to the last degree, provoking a quarrel with any and everything crossing its path. The wonderful little castle with its bevel-edged and closely fitting door is the work of the female Tarantula, which differs almost wholly from the male, which makes no such provision. While he is fierce and warlike, she is shy and retiring, never going far from home, the door of which is always left open when she is out. At the approach of danger, with a bound she is inside, closing the door after her, waiting until her nerves are quieted or she comes forth to be slain by her foe, the "Killer," as it is called a waspish-looking insect. A most remarkable feature about this Killer is, that he is relentless and untiring in his destruction of the Tarantula. If he chances to discover the female inside her house with closed door, he raps until she opens it a trifle to ascertain "who's there," when the crafty fellow inserts his arm to prevent her closing it again, continuing to pound away until, in sheer desperation of madness, Madam Tarantula throws open the door and rushes out to receive a thrust which quickly ends her existence. The Killer has golden wings and deep blue colored body.—H. H. TAMMEN.

The wealth of a Haida Indian is estimated by the number of coppers he possesses. One old chief, a few years ago, owned twenty-five or thirty of the old Copper River beaten ones, which he valued at several thousand dollars. When a wealthy Indian dies, it is customary to carve the number of coppers he accumulated during life on his mortuary column and, in some instances, the pieces themselves are nailed to the grave-posts.

—The Museum.

The North-American Indians presented a pipe to any one they wished to be on good terms with. To receive the pipe and smoke together was to promote friendship and good will, but to refuse the offer was virtually a declaration of hostility.

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## The Museum Bulletin.

PUBLISHED BY

C. P. WILCOMB, - Weirs, N. H.

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(12 NUMBERS.)

Advertising Rates on Application.

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The BULLETIN reaches collectors in every State in the Union, besides many Foreign countries.

We have received from S. Jacob, "Naturalist," a copy of the *Students' Aquarium*, and catalogue of Natural History specimens, etc., published at Newport, R. I.

We will give fair equivalent for short items, such as Coin, Relic, Stamp, Natural History, and curiosity *news*. Anything likely to be of interest to collectors will be thankfully received and paid for if of any value to the BULLETIN.

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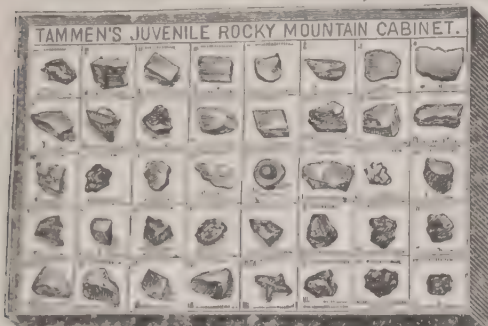
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# MUSEUM BULLETIN

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF COLLECTORS OF ALL CLASSES AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL.

VOL. 1—No 8.

WEIRS, N. H., DECEMBER, 1886.

C. P. WILCOMB, Pub.

## GREAT CLOSING-OUT SALE

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### 50 PER CENT. LESS THAN REGULAR PRICES

Trap-door Spider, 5 inches across, mounted, \$	.70
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Tarantula, 5 inches across, mounted.....	.75
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Cactus Wood, "    "	.10
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Wild Boar's Tusks, very large.....	.15
Coral, from Bahama Isles, large.....	.25
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Alligator's Teeth, Florida.....	.10
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Relics from smallest boat that crossed the Atlantic, ( <i>Nautilus</i> ).....	.25
Relics from old <i>Betknapp</i> , first steamboat on Lake Winnepesaukee.....	.20
Relic, piece of Endicott Rock, Weirs, rare.....	.20
Piece of large church bell melted by lightning.....	.10
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6 pieces Indian Pottery.....	.10
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Mammoth Turtle Shell.....	.35
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Large Star Fish, "    "    1x1 feet.....	.70
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## Pre-historic Man.

Archæologists are now of the opinion that the human race appeared simultaneously at several places. All attempts to establish a connection between American aborigines and the several races of the eastern continent have failed. History teaches us that America was possibly discovered and afterwards peopled by the Northmen from the east, or some Asiatic tribe from the west, by way of Behring Strait. Nearly all countries have had their pre-historic inhabitants, such as the Swiss lake-builders, the cave-dwellers of Scandinavia, the aborigines of the British Isles, etc. In these places relics of the stone age are found similar in shape to those found in America; but a great difference in workmanship is distinguishable. The works of the mound-builders are confined to the interior of our continent, and all archæological research has failed to find their landing place or discover remains of a journey from any coast. Ancient ruins of the Aztecs and Toltecs are found in British Columbia and the northwestern part of the United States; also of their subsequent settlements in Arizona and their journey through Mexico. But if they ever had a landing place on this continent, all efforts to find it have proved fruitless. Remains of the mastodon and other extinct animals have been found with stone arrow and spearheads in and about them, showing that they were contemporary with the ancient American. This proves that the continent was inhabited at a very early date; but whether the mound-builder or Aztec appeared simultaneously with men in Asia is merely a matter of conjecture. JOSEPH WIGGLESWORTH.

## The Aboriginal California Mint.

In the vicinity of Santa Barbara, fifty years ago, still existed the original (or aboriginal) Mint of California. The Indians of Tulare county generally visited it once a year, in bands of twenty or thirty, male and female, on foot armed with bows and arrows. They brought with them panocha, or thick sugar, made from what is now called honey-dew and from the sweet Carisa cane, and put up into small oblong

sacks, made of grass and swamp flags; also nut pipes, and wild tobacco, pounded and mixed with lime; which preparation of native tobacco was called *pispewat*, and used for chewing. These commodities were exchanged for a species of money from the Indian Mint of the Santa Barbara rancherias, called by them "*ponga*." This "*ponga*" money consisted of pieces of shell, rounded, with a hole in the middle; made from the hardest part of the small, edible, white mussel of the beaches, which was brought in canoes by the Barbarians from the island of Santa Rosa. The worth of a rial was put on a string which passed twice and a half around the hand *i. e.*, from the end of the middle finger to the wrist. Eight of these strings passed for the value of a silver dollar.

—Coin Collectors' Guide.

## Indian Relics.

A few days ago a man was digging on the bank of a small pond, on the farm of a resident of Brimfield, Mass., when his shovel struck what he supposed was a pocket of gravel stones. He threw the first shovelful into the pond. On closer inspection, he discovered that he had struck a pocket of arrowheads and spear points of different sizes, and from 1 1-2 inches to 6 inches in length. He estimated the whole lot to contain about a peck, including those he threw into the pond. You may imagine his surprise at the find, and his disappointment at the loss of those thrown away. The query is "How came so many to be left there?" I will suggest that the Indians stored them there so as to have them conveniently near some good hunting ground, using them as a base of supplies. It also might have been a camping-ground, where they made arrowheads, and being suddenly driven away, never returned for them. Can any one give a better or clearer answer?

E. G. W., Three Rivers, Mass.

Copper coins should not be cleaned with acids. Sweet oil is the only thing that will loosen the dirt without injury to the piece. Silver coins can be made somewhat brighter by immersion in a solution of ammonia. In both cases the cleansing agent should be removed with a piece of soft flannel



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°St. Vincent, 1/2 d., .04	China, 5c, .06
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The denominations of the gold coins issued by this government are: Double eagles (\$20), eagles (\$10), half eagles (\$5), quarter eagles (\$2.50), 3-dollar pieces and 1-dollar pieces. There are gold quarters in existence; but they were issued by the mining companies in California in 1849, and not by the authorities of the United States Treasury. They are worth 30 or 40 cents each as curiosities.

Mr. Andrew E. Douglass, of New York City, possesses, probably, the largest collection of ancient tobacco-pipes in America. The series contains about 500 examples, 260, or more than half, of which are the handiwork of the American aborigines. The remainder are early European. Of the native American specimens, many are most elaborate and curious sculptures.—*Museum*.

While some workmen a short time ago were pulling down an old building in the town of Svendborg, on the island of Funen, they came upon a valuable treasure, which included 10 bars of very fine silver and nearly 4000 silver and gold coins, all dating from the reign of the Danish King, Eric of Pomerania (1396-1412).

One-cent pieces were first coined in 1792. Eagle cents were coined in 1856, '57 and '58, the eagle being displaced by an Indian head in 1859. Those coined in 1856 are the only ones for which dealers or collectors pay a premium.

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10 var. L. C. Canada Law.....	.50
7 var. Ontario Law.....	.15
12 var. Ontario Law.....	.50
12 var. Quebec Law, (10c to \$3 inclusive)....	.40
15 var. Bill.....	.20

Many other Canada Stamps on hand. Prices on application. All letters of inquiry and orders under 60 cents must contain 10c stamp for return postage. Address, EDWARD Y. PARKER, 47 Huron St., Toronto, Canada.

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## The Museum Bulletin.

PUBLISHED BY

C. P. WILCOMB, - Weirs, N. H.

Subscription, 15 cents per year.  
(12 NUMBERS.)

Advertising Rates on Application.

Exchanges will please send *two* copies, and we will do likewise.

The BULLETIN reaches collectors in every State in the Union, besides many Foreign countries.

We have received two very elegant and rare bronze medals from Mr. Lyman H. Low, Broadway, New York.

We desire to thank Mr. W. S. Beekman West Medford, Mass., for a splendid selection of gems, West India curiosities, minerals, etc., which he donated us recently. They are very desirable and make a fine addition to the cabinet.

We have received a nice little collection of war relics from Victor A. Rohrer, Trego, Washington Co., Md. Mr. Rohrer is a collector of large experience and has swords, sabers, muskets, bayonets, cavalry bridle-bits, spurs, shot, shell, bullets, canteens, etc., from nearly all the principal battle-fields of the late war, and will sell specimens at a low price.

We are much pleased with a choice collection of ocean curiosities, relics, etc., presented to our cabinet by Miss May Ricker, South Berwick, Maine. Miss Ricker is an enthusiastic collector, and has excellent opportunities for procuring marine specimens, and has a large quantity of duplicates to sell or exchange for other specimens not in her cabinet.

*Science Series* is a magazine devoted to natural science, published weekly by H. M. Downs, Rutland, Vt. We have received following and find them interesting and instructive; No. 3, Net and box, or insect collecting; No. 8, Alexander Von Humbolt; No. 9, Aquariums, how to make and stock. Each number contains about 20 pages and is sold for the very low price of 5 cents for single copies.

Lawrence, Mass., has a Natural History and Archæological Society of 100 members. This was started less than a year ago and has a good museum of relics, minerals, coins, papers and specimens of natural history, etc. Regular meetings are held on the second Monday evening of each month, with alternate class meetings between. Ex-Mayor R. H. Tewksbury is president, and John P. Langshaw, secretary.

Messrs. Wm. H. Warner & Bro., "Medalists," Philadelphia, Pa., have kindly sent to us one each of their beautiful Christmas and New Year's medals, also one of the handsome international bronze medals of the Bartholdi Statue.

We would call attention of all collectors to the advertisement in our columns of F. B. Webster, Boston, Mass. His business is located at 409 Washington St., and is the principal naturalists' supply depot of the east. Mr. Webster has the finest line of supplies ever seen in this part of the country. He has a large, complete stock of all articles required by Naturalists, Oologists, Entomologists, and Taxidermists; also dealer in birds' skins and eggs, and is sole agent for Hursts' artificial glass eyes.

We think Mr. Lyman H. Low of 853 Broadway, New York, demonstrates his prominence in the coin business, when we find him buying up all the entire editions of all the good American and Foreign publications on the subjects that come in his way. He has been the means of placing several valuable works in the hands of collectors at a large reduction from publishers' prices. Mr. Low is not a spare-time dealer, he makes the buying and selling of coins and medals, with books relating to same, his exclusive business.

Through the kindness of Mr. Geo. H. Richmond, special agent of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., Ltd, 721 Broadway, New York, we have been presented with one each of Scott's popular catalogues, as follows: No. 1, The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue, contains over 200 pages and 2000 illustrations; No. 2, Paper Money Catalogue, about 60 pages profusely illustrated; No. 3, Coin Chart Manual, 36 large plates of illustrations, and gives actual bullion value of all gold and silver coins in circulation; No. 4, Gold and Silver Coin Catalogue, 90 pages with 700 illustrations; No. 5, Copper Coin Catalogue, 65 pages, 500 illustrations. These catalogues are the best published on which they treat, and contain all the latest issues and improvements yet discovered, and are sold at 25 cents each, regardless of the immense cost. The Scott Co. are the largest dealers and publishers in the world.

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